

## Lead Scientist's Report

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**Summary:** This report covers selection of the 2011 Class of Delta Science Fellows, the latest issue of the online journal, *San Francisco Estuary and Watershed Science*, and the Salmonid Integrated Life Cycle Models Workshop that was held on April 13, 2011.

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### **2011 Delta Science Fellowships**

The Delta Science Program recently approved the 2011 class of Delta Science Fellows. This class of fellows represents the sixth year of fellowships awarded by the Delta Science Program in conjunction with California Sea Grant. Beginning with the class of 2003, the Delta Science Fellows Program has paired graduate students and postdoctoral researchers with Bay-Delta agency scientists and senior research mentors. Fellows work on collaborative data analysis and research projects applicable to the California Bay-Delta system. The 2011 class includes five post-doctoral researchers and two doctoral students. Details about the 2011 Fellows and their projects can be found on the Delta Science Program's Fellows web page:

[http://www.deltacouncil.ca.gov/delta\\_science\\_program/research/research\\_fellow.html](http://www.deltacouncil.ca.gov/delta_science_program/research/research_fellow.html).

### **New issue of the *San Francisco Estuary and Watershed Science* electronic journal**

The Delta Science Program-supported online journal, *San Francisco Estuary and Watershed Science*, recently released a new issue featuring five articles: a review paper on a native fish, the Sacramento perch; research on conservation management of three other native Delta fish; research on long-term salinity conditions in the estuary as investigated through Blue Oak tree-ring analysis, and a pair of papers that provide a formal scientific debate on delta smelt loss estimates related to the State Water Project and Central Valley Project using catch data from the 20-mm Survey. To read the latest issue of *San Francisco Estuary and Watershed Science* visit: [http://escholarship.org/uc/jmie\\_sfews](http://escholarship.org/uc/jmie_sfews).

### **Salmonid Integrated Life Cycle Models Workshop**

At the request of National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), the Delta Science Program hosted a public workshop on salmonid integrated life cycle models on April 13 in Sacramento.

Models that cover the entire life cycle of key Delta fish species have been identified as a critical need for managing the recovery of these species. NMFS and the implementing agencies of the Operations Criteria and Plan (OCAP) Biological Opinion will use the information presented at the workshop and the workshop panel's synthesis report to improve their understanding of existing life cycle models and consider how these models might be used in a decision-making framework to inform water operations and prescribed actions for individual and multiple fish species. Presentations and materials from the workshop have been posted on the workshop web page. The workshop panel's synthesis report will also be posted on the same web page in mid-May. The workshop web page is located at:

[http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/delta\\_science\\_program/events/workshop\\_salmonid\\_lifecycle.html](http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/delta_science_program/events/workshop_salmonid_lifecycle.html).

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